

And finally, Professor Lustick wrote, "For the country as a whole, however, it has become a maelstrom of waste."

Now we have a national debt of \$11.315 trillion, an incomprehensible figure—and the GAO tells us in addition that we have over \$55 trillion in unfunded future pension liabilities.

It's just not going to be long at all before we're not going to be able to pay all of our Social Security and Medicare, veterans pensions, and all the things we have promised our own people if we don't stop spending money in ridiculously wasteful ways.

And, of course, what does the Defense Department tell us? Just as they always do: What they want is more money to spend in Afghanistan and more troops in every place else.

Bruce Fein, who was a high-ranking official in the Reagan administration, wrote just a few days ago in the *Washington Times* that it is ridiculous that we now have troops in 135 countries and approximately 1,400 military installations around the world. And he said we should redeploy our troops to the United States.

He said, "No country would dare attack our defenses and our retaliatory capability would be invincible. Esprit de corps would be at its zenith because soldiers would be fighting to protect American lives on American soil, not Afghan peasants."

And he wrote this: "The redeployment would end the United States casualties in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, it would end the foreign resentments or enemies created by unintended killing of civilians and the insult to pride excited by foreign occupation."

At the end of this column, he wrote: "The American empire should be abandoned and the republic restored. The United States would be safer, freer, and wealthier." And, Madam Speaker, I can tell you, I agree with him.

□ 1615

FRAGILE X SYNDROME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARPER. I come to you today to tell you a story, and it's my family's story that has great relevance to many of you, and many of you in this country.

My wife and I met and started dating when she was 15 and I was 17. We met at a great place to meet your spouse, church. We dated for 5½ years and got married. And we didn't really think we wanted children—we really wanted grandchildren, but could not figure out a way to get there. And we finally decided, after 10 years of marriage, that we would have some kids.

Our first son, Livingston, was born in 1989, and he is now 19 years old. As we went through his development in early years, we noticed that he was not doing

things as soon as we thought he should be. Everything that he did was in the very tail end of the late normal range; he did them, but it was delayed. Our pediatrician told us it was okay, that he would probably grow out of this, and we continued to go along with just normal life.

At one point, when he was about 19 months old, we went out of town on a trip, left him with one of the grandparents. And he got sick while we were out of town and had to go to the doctor. At that point, the next week the doctor called me and said I think that there's something wrong with your son; I don't know what it is, but we'll look, we'll try to figure out what it is. At that point, we were 4 months pregnant with our daughter. And we didn't know, we just started looking to see why he was developmentally delayed. We started going—and I say "we," my wife was the one who did the brunt of this work. There was speech therapy twice a week, occupational therapy twice a week, tests, trips to the hospital, to the doctor, all the things that you do, trying to determine what's wrong with your child.

That continued. We went through all types of tests; we went through genetic tests that came back normal, we went through other things. We were finally given a misdiagnosis of mild cerebral palsy and labeled a near miss on autism. That's what we dealt with for the next 2 years. So we did those things that you had to do to survive.

At some point in 1993, when he was almost 4 years old, our next-door neighbor went to an education seminar in Jackson, Mississippi, and went to a breakout session called Educating Children With Fragile X. Our next-door neighbor had never heard of Fragile X. And she goes to this session, watches the video, hears this parent speak, and her mouth falls open. And she comes home that night and tells us, I think this is it. At that point, we requested testing to be done specifically for Fragile X syndrome, and it was determined that, indeed, he did have that.

The things that led us to know things were wrong, he was rocking some when he would sit, he was doing a lot of hand flapping, and maybe chewing on some objects. And then he was late doing many things, speech and language and those type issues. So we got the diagnosis of Fragile X syndrome. We went to the Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado, where he was evaluated by Dr. Randi Hagerman and her Fragile X team. It's been tough, but we have a wonderful son. He is a blessing to everybody that he comes across. And we're so thankful for our son Livingston.

Our daughter Maggie does not have Fragile X syndrome. But I wanted to mention this today because there are over 130 parents from across 35 States—all over the country—that are here today for National Fragile X Advocacy Day. And I want to commend them for the hard work that they're doing, the

things that they're doing to bring attention to this.

This is something that we can work on together here in Congress. It is a bipartisan effort. We can work to find the right things for research, things that will help on treatments, and things that will ultimately lead to a cure. And I'll tell you this, for all parents of special needs children, this is something you should never give up on, never stop fighting, never quit believing. Our son graduated from high school last year. He is now in a local community college. He works two nights a week.

I want to thank the National Fragile X Foundation for all their hard work.

KEEP GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY AND EMPOWER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise because I am concerned about the direction of this country and the fundamental and proper role of government.

I still remember reading and seeing the old films and seeing President Kennedy stand up and say, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country," and yet we seem to be moving in the wrong direction.

The furnace, the engine that is the United States of America, what makes America so great are the entrepreneurs, that entrepreneurial spirit. It is the American people who grab hold of things and make things happen; and yet at every turn I look and I see government getting in the way.

As I meet with entrepreneurs, as I meet with people who own businesses and employ people and have jobs, they don't sit back and say, boy, I wonder what the government is going to do to make my life better. The question that they ask is, what sort of hindrances are going to be in the way?

We've got to understand in this country that manufacturing is good; it's good to manufacture. We have to actually create and build things in the United States of America. We can't simply be a service-based economy. And yet at every single turn I see these radical environmentalists who want to get in the way and prohibit us from actually developing and creating something. I see this so-called cap and trade—I think it's more like a cap and tax, where we're going to simply tax our way out of our problems and say every piece of energy that we create in this country we're going to add a tax to it. That's not going to grow this country; that's not going to propel us forward.

We have created so many barriers to entry for the person who wants to start their own home-based business to the largest manufacturers that are in this

country. We have to empower these people, and that means getting government out of the way, creating life that's more simple.

Now, is there a role and responsibility for government to regulate certain things, for instance on Wall Street? Of course there is. Nobody has ever suggested that we just simply get rid of everything, but we have not streamlined the process.

Look, I'm a Republican. The President has said several things that I agree with, that I applaud him for—the ending of no-bid contracts, a push for earmark reform; he said he wants smaller government. I even like the fact that he put the Iraq appropriations into the base budget instead of these supplemental appropriations, and I applaud him for that. But it is imperative for the American people to hold their public leaders accountable for what they say they're going to do. I think that's all we ask. I've got a wife, I've got three kids. All I want them to do is I just want my kids to do what they say they're going to do.

And so when the President calls for appropriations without earmarks, and the very next day—the very next day—we get to vote on a bill with 8,500 earmarks in it, you just have to look at that and say, wait a second, the talk is good, but are we actually walking the walk? It's not yet happening.

We don't have time to wait anymore. We talk about smaller government. Well, we just passed the single largest spending bill in the history of the United States of America for \$1 trillion—\$1 trillion. We had just something like 13 hours to actually review it. Please, we have to be held accountable.

I'm a freshman. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the United States Congress. I didn't create this problem, but I am here to help clean it up. And for those of us that have been elected, entrusted by the people, the constituents within our districts, I say, please, hold us all accountable; raise expectations. It is not government, it is not government that is going to get us out of this; it is going to be the empowerment of the entrepreneur, it is going to be the empowerment of the American people that will drive and propel this country forward. It is always what has created the greatest success in the United States of America. It is the power that makes us the greatest country on the face of this planet. But we have to make sure that we keep government in check.

It's about smaller government, not bigger government. Please, I ask that we be united and fight for this cause, fight for the American entrepreneur. Keep government limited, keep it out of our way, and empower the American people.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING EXPORT OF CERTAIN ITEMS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-21)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of two environmental chambers to be used to test automotive parts is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from this export, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2009.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-22)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2009.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue this national

emergency and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 2009.

THE PROTECTION OF LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to my good friend and colleague, ZACH WAMP.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the Speaker, and most of all I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his extraordinary leadership. He brings us to the floor today to talk about something that doesn't get enough attention.

At a time of economic duress and hardship, all eyes are on the economy, and for many reasons that is absolutely right. But there are some real big issues that, frankly, are being overlooked under this new administration and across the country today and they are fundamental to what kind of people we are.

Today, we're talking about the protection of life. We all know that abortion divides our country. And we're grateful for all those Americans who say that they want to reduce the number of abortions in our country, those that say that they oppose abortion, but then when it comes time, as the previous speaker said, to actually enact policies, that's the most important time that you can actually stand up for what you say you believe.

With the stroke of a pen, we now have a new executive order that says that taxpayers, basically, in this country will fund abortions that Americans want to have anywhere in the world. That is something overwhelmingly opposed by the American people, that their taxpayer dollars would go to fund abortion.

We teach our children the lesson of the boiled frogs, where if you throw a frog in a pot of boiling water it will jump right back out, but if you leave the frog in cold water and slowly turn the temperature up, that frog will die and never leave the water. So, over time, here we are just becoming more and more accustomed to this harsh treatment of innocent life by the people of the greatest Nation in the history of the world.

This issue of abortion does divide us, but there are fundamental truths about the protection of innocent life from conception forward and our Constitution, which we all swear to uphold, protecting life.

Today, Mr. SMITH is going to go into detail about why it is so important for those of us who believe as we believe—many of us on religious convictions—that we should protect all innocent life, and how, frankly, that is under assault in this country today, sometimes